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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/817,040	04/02/2004	Jordan L.K. Schwartz	MSFT122099	2243
38779 7590 06/13/2008 SENNIGER POWERS LLP (MSFT) ONE METROPOLITAN SQUARE, 16TH FLOOR ST. LOUIS, MO 63102				
EXAMINER SALOMON, PHENUEL S				
ART UNIT 2178		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 06/13/2008		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

uspatents@senniger.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/817,040

Applicant(s)

SCHWARTZ ET AL.

Examiner

PHENUEL S. SALOMON

Art Unit

2178

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 May 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 11-14 and 20-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 11-14 and 20-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the Request for Continued examination filed on May 01, 2008. Claims 1, 9, 11-13 and 20-22 are amended; claims 2, 4-8, 10, 15-19 and 23-26 are canceled; and claims 1, 3, 9, 11-14 and 20-22 are pending.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 9 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 9 is dependent from a canceled claim. In order to expedite the examination process, claim 9 is being examined as dependent from claim 1. Appropriate action is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 3, 11, 20, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mernyk (US 6,496,206 B1).

Claim 1: Mernyk discloses a method comprising:

sensing the presence of an indicator in a vicinity of an icon having associated thumbnail data representative of content of an associated object (col. 4, lines 12-15), wherein said icon and a plurality of additional icons are located within a viewable interface, each of the additional icons

having associated thumbnail data representative of content of an associated object (col. 4, lines 15-25);

rendering a superimposed view of at least a portion of the thumbnail data, the superimposed view rendered in the vicinity of the icon (fig. 2);

identifying a predetermined number of the plurality of additional icons based on the locations within the window of the plurality of additional icons relative to said icon (fig. 2); and
pre-caching thumbnail data associated with the identified additional icons responsive to said identifying (col. 4, lines 30-35 and 42-45).

Claim 3: Mernyk discloses the method according to claim 2 above, wherein pre-caching the thumbnail data includes storing the thumbnail data in volatile memory (col. 5, lines 31-35).

Claim 11: Mernyk discloses the method according to claim 1 above, wherein the viewable interface is a window and the superimposed view rendered is rendered within the window (fig. 2).

Claim 20: Mernyk discloses a computer-readable storage medium having instructions stored thereon that direct a computing system to:

sense the presence of an indicator in a vicinity of an icon having associated thumbnail data representative of content of an associated object (col. 4, lines 12-15), wherein said icon and a plurality of additional icons are located within a viewable interface, each of the additional icons

having associated thumbnail data representative of content of an associated object (col. 4, lines 15-25);

render a superimposed view of at least a portion of the thumbnail data, the superimposed view rendered in the vicinity of the icon (fig. 2);

identify a predetermined number of the plurality of additional icons based on the locations within the window of the plurality of additional icons relative to said icon (fig. 2); and
pre-cache thumbnail data associated with the identified additional icons responsive to said identifying (col. 4, lines 30-35 and 42-45).

Claim 22: Mernyk discloses the method of claim 1 above, wherein the icon for which the pre-cached thumbnail data is displayed and the displayed thumbnail data are different (col. 6, lines 15-22) [thumbnail data of the remaining pages in the folder are different than the displayed folder].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 12-14 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mernyk (US 6,496,206 B1) in view of Sugimoto (US 6,750,890 B1).

Claim 12: Mernyk discloses a method for displaying thumbnail data associated with at least one of a plurality of icons located in a window, each of said plurality of icons having thumbnail data associated therewith, said method comprising:

identifying a predetermined maximum number of icons for which thumbnail data will be pre-cached (col. 2, lines 61-67), said predetermined maximum number being independent of the total number of icons located in the window (col. 3, lines 3-10);

comparing the total number of icons located in the window to the pre-determined maximum number of icons (fig. 2) [pre-determined maximum number could be one or the total number of icons];

displaying the pre-cached thumbnail data associated with one of the plurality of icons when an indicator is hovered substantially over the said icon (col. 2, lines 67-69); and

pre-caching the thumbnail data for a particular number of the plurality of icons located in the window based on said comparing (col. 4, lines 40-45), but does not explicitly disclose wherein said particular number is the pre-determined maximum number when said predetermined maximum number is greater than the total number, and wherein said particular number is the total number when the predetermined maximum number is less than or equal to said total number said thumbnail data representative of content of an associated object. However Sugimoto discloses the maximum number of displayable history information may be greater than the number of history information which can be displayed in the auxiliary region and the maximum number of displayable history information is equal to the number of history information which can be displayed in the auxiliary region (col. 34, lines 6-12). Therefore, it would

have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Sugimoto's features in Mernyk. One would have been motivated to do so in order to maintain economy of memory usage while enabling user to quickly identify the basic contents of large number of files identified as icon.

Claim 13: Mernyk and Sugimoto disclose the method according to claim 12 above, Mernyk further discloses the pre-cached thumbnail data is available for substantially instantaneous rendering at the moment the indicator is hovered substantially over one of the plurality of icons (col. 4, lines 26-28).

Claim 14: Mernyk and Sugimoto disclose the method according to claim 13 above, Mernyk further discloses the thumbnail data is pre-cached in volatile memory (col. 5, lines 31-35).

Claim 21: Mernyk discloses a computer-readable storage medium having instructions stored thereon for displaying thumbnail data associated with at least one of a plurality of icons located in a window, each of said plurality of icons having thumbnail data associated therewith, said instructions directing a computing system to:

identify a predetermined maximum number of icons for which thumbnail data will be pre-cached (col. 2, lines 61-67), said predetermined maximum number being independent of the total number of icons located in the window (col. 3, lines 3-10);

compare the total number of icons located in the window to the pre-determined maximum number of icons (fig. 2) [pre-determined maximum number could be one or the total number of icons];

display the pre-cached thumbnail data associated with one of the plurality of icons when an indicator is hovered substantially over the said icon (col. 2, lines 67-69); and

pre-cache the thumbnail data for a particular number of the plurality of icons located in the window based on said comparing (col. 4, lines 40-45), but does not explicitly disclose wherein said particular number is the pre-determined maximum number when said predetermined maximum number is greater than the total number, and wherein said particular number is the total number when the predetermined maximum number is less than or equal to said total number said thumbnail data representative of content of an associated object. However Sugimoto discloses the maximum number of displayable history information may be greater than the number of history information which can be displayed in the auxiliary region and the maximum number of displayable history information is equal to the number of history information which can be displayed in the auxiliary region (col. 4, lines 6-12). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Sugimoto's features in Mernyk. One would have been motivated to do so in order to maintain economy of memory usage while enabling user to quickly identify the basic contents of large number of files identified as icon.

7. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mernyk (US 6,496,206 B1) in view of Kobayashi et al. (US 6,938,215 B2).

Claim 9: Mernyk discloses the method of claim 8 above, wherein the predetermined number of icons is greater than one icon located within the viewable interface (fig. 2) but did not explicitly disclose less than the total number of the plurality of additional icons. However

Kobayashi discloses the amount of displayable files in one screen is less than the total number of files displayed in the icon browser screen (col. 5, lines 58-64). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Sugimoto's icon displayed in Mernyk. One would have been motivated to do so in order to maintain economy of memory usage while enabling user to quickly identify the basic contents of large number of files identified as icon.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed on 05/01/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive and they are moot in view of new ground(s) of rejection..

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Kanevsky et al. (US 7,003,736 B2) discloses iconic representation of context.

b. Jaaskelainen, Jr. (US 5,835,088) discloses method and apparatus for providing programmable window-to-window focus change within a data processing system using GUI.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phenuel S. Salomon whose telephone number is (571) 270-1699. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. (Alternate Friday Off) EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on (571) 272 4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-3800.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PSS
6/5/2008

/Joshua D Campbell/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2178